

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

The paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 has been amended as follows:

The optical axis of condenser 17 aligns with optical axis 2 of objective 20. Adjusting the height of condenser 17 serves to adapt the illuminating rays to be directed onto feature 31 to different optical thicknesses of masks 30. In particular, the condenser head can extend into the open part of the measurement stage frame. For protection against damage in the context of displacements of measurement stage 36 over the entire mask surface, however, ~~condenser 26~~ condenser 17 can also be pulled below the surface of granite block 23. Light sources 1 and 33 can be switched on independently of one another.

On Page 16, the first full paragraph has been amended as follows:

FIG. 5 shows the schematic beam path before and after the condenser of the transmitted-light illumination system of the coordinate measuring instrument, in particular for masks of different thicknesses. ~~Condenser 7~~ Condenser 17 with an optical axis 2 is shown. Intermediate image plane 10 is indicated for orientation.